

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01017 191050Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-07 DHA-02 /084 W
-----004448 191054Z /13

O R 191015Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6299
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1017

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, US, RH
SUBJECT: MACHEL SPEECH ON RHODESIAN INCURSIONS

REF: STATE 142357

1. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT SO FAR REMOVED FROM SCENE
OF ACTION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION IT IS HARD TO
DO ANYTHING ELSE BUT SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON
ALONG THE RHODESIAN-MOZAMBIQUE BORDER AND REASONS FOR
MACHEL'S SPEECH. I SEE THREE POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS:

(A) RHODESIANS ARE PREVARICATING AND IN FACT IN
RECENT DAYS HAVE LAUNCHED ANOTHER MAPAI-TYPE OPERATION.

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(B) THE MOZAMBICANS ARE REACTING TO A SERIES OF
SHALLOW INCURSIONS RESULTING FROM HOT PURSUIT
ACTIONS WHICH ARE HAPPENING WITH GREATER FREQUENCY
ALONG THE BORDER AS THE FIGHTING INCREASES.

(C) MACHEL'S SPEECH IS A DELAYED REACTION TO
MAPAI WITH THE MOZAMBIKAN ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT

DESIGNED (I) TO PROVIDE FRESH AMMUNITION FOR TAKING THE CASE TO THE UN AND GETTING A DRAMATIC NEW CONDEMNATION OF RHODESIA FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES, OR (II) TO PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION FOR A QUANTUM JUMP IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIETS, CUBANS OR OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

2. THE FIRST POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT BUT I WOULD THINK UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF WHAT HAWKINS TOLD ME YESTERDAY AND THE SALISBURY TOTAL DENIAL. THE RHODESIANS WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO GET CAUGHT OUT IN A FLAT DECEPTION OF THIS MAGNITUDE.

3. FROM COMMENTS WHICH BRAND FOURIE AND HAWKINS HAVE MADE TO ME IN RECENT DAYS, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT SHALLOW INCURSIONS ALONG THE BORDER ARE HAPPENING FAIRLY FREQUENTLY. WHEN I ASPOKE WITH FOURIE ON HIS RETURN FROM SALISBURY LAST FRIDAY, HE NOTED THAT WHILE PIK BOTHA SPOKE BLUNTLY TO SMITH ABOUT A REPETITION OF MAPAI, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT DURING THE COURSE OF A HOT PURSUIT OPERATION RHODESIAN TROOPS MIGHT NOT CORSS THE BORDER IN CHASING A BAND OF GUERILLAS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL BUSH AREAS. HAWKINS MADE A SIMILAR REFERENCE YESTERDAY IN DENYING THAT THERE WERE ANY RHODESIAN TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE THIRD POSSIBILITY, AMBASSADOR DE PRESS IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT ON
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MACHEL'S MOTIVES THAN I AM. I WOULD HAZARD A GUESS THAT THE EXPLANATION FOR MACHEL'S SPEECH PROBABLY INVOLVES ELEMENTS OF THE SECOND AND THIRD POSSIBILITIES.

5. POSTSCRIPT: BEFORE THIS MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED, MAPUTO 0796ARRIVED. THE FOREGOING IS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH AMBASSADOR DE PREE'S ASSESSMENT. I ENDORSE HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR A MESSAGE OF REASSURANCE TO MACHEL OR CHISSANO. ANOTHER STERN WARNING TO SMITH WOULD ALSO BE IN ORDER. I SUGGEST THAT THIS BE DELIVERED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THROUGH THE HAWKINS CHANNEL. WHEN THE SECRETARY SEES BOTHA ON TUESDAY, HE MIGHT ASK HIM TO REINFORCE THE MESSAGE VIA A VORSTER TO SMITH COMMUNICATION.BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, ALLEGATIONS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-0005
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaabkhn.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d63827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 142357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2102016
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MACHEL SPEECH ON RHODESIAN INCURSIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, UK, US, RH, (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d63827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009